

# Simple charm

Having built and renovated five family homes, Anne Hartmann knows a thing or two about creating a home

With the arrival of their fourth son, Anne and Robert Hartmann felt it was time to move. The house they decided to buy belonged to a friend of Anne's who also had four children. "Many years ago this friend had asked me to give her some ideas and when we purchased the house, unbelievably, she still had my plans and ideas that I had jotted down for her."

With a bit more thought and taking stock of their needs, they went ahead and renovated over the next year. "In order for a house to become a home it cannot be rushed," says

Anne. "It needs time to grow with the family; three years is truly when you start to understand the house's feel, air flow and the sunlight in each room. A wonderful characteristic about a true home is, although its base is stable, elements within the home can grow and change when needed."

Anne really has taken heed of her own advice; the house has a wonderful, unforced elegance and an easy, natural flow. And whichever room you find yourself in, it's flooded with generous amounts of natural light. "Always start by paying strong attention to your shell, doors and windows," suggests Anne. "This makes a home; doors and windows are the eyes ▸



The bedrooms and living areas all open up onto cool and comfortable balconies and verandas where the tranquil interior shades of blue are continued with the exterior colour, a special mix from Barney's Paint Centre, broken with white to accentuate the architecture.

TEXT ANDREW MACKENZIE  
PHOTOGRAPHS CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN

*"As a family we love the outdoors and I think for South Africans in general, outdoor living is important and a gift"*

THIS PAGE:

The double-volume entrance is kept simple with American shutters, from The Plantation Shutter Company, enhancing the feeling of open space and allowing for generous amounts of light.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- The formal lounge has a traditional feel with the couches covered in Canvas from Mavromac and layered with scatter cushions from St Leger & Viney. The simple curtain treatment is in Lovely Linen from Black Fabrics. Anne chose a fitted carpet from Belgotex Floorcoverings to give a soft feel underfoot; this gives the formal lounge a different feel from the wooden floors in the other living areas.
- A corner in the formal lounge is brought to life with the ambient glow of an interesting lamp and framed old maps.
- A large pantry sits just off the kitchen, which has a central island that's perfect for preparing food and unpacking shopping bags. Anne installed a mirror as a splashback above the stove adding depth and the illusion of space. The light fittings from Hartmann & Keppler's imported light range are great for task lighting and lend a charming old-world feel.



of the home, bringing in the light and assisting in the general flow." One of the first things Anne did was change all the windows and doors from cottage pane to a simpler wooden style. "We added lots of French doors which we had custom-made and surprisingly did not cost all that much more than the standard styles. I love my doors as they are unique, simple and classical which add character to our home. The windows and doors framed with architraves are pictures on their own."

Anne knocked out a few internal walls creating a central space off which all the rooms lead. Blue is a major theme that runs throughout the house. Ever since Anne was little, blue has always been a special colour and having a house full of boys helped. Anne has gone for soft colours for the shell and in spite of blue being a cool colour, it has a warm undertone.

For the flooring, Anne had wooden floors laid in the living areas. "We love the warm underfoot feel and fortunately with our boys, the maintenance is not a problem. As our ceilings are not very high, we could not lay the wooden floor in the traditional method onto cleats, so we used a new method of gluing them onto rubber strips very close to the slab. This worked well and has also helped to reduce the noise of teenagers running through the house."

The interior is somewhat feminine with a touch of the traditional but bearing in mind the family, Anne has not >





neglected the modern, keeping the house fresh and light. Besides the interior, Anne has created comfortable outdoor living and entertainment areas. "As a family we love the outdoors and I think for South Africans in general outdoor living is important and a gift.

"Simplicity is key," Anne advises. "The more you have, the more you have to look after. I love simple lines, they are calming. Although I try and clear out my goodies, they keep creeping back. To keep the house uncluttered I have three rules: it has to have sentimental value, have a use or be simply beautiful otherwise it just has to go.

"I feel that this home has grown up with us over the past three years and matured into a beautiful family home which is and will be filled with treasured family memories." >

**OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

- The old-world charm in the dining room comes from the use of a ceiling mould and French-styled dining chairs, and is complemented with the simple, modern window treatment. The wooden floors add a warm tone while remaining practical.
- Anne had a few internal walls knocked down to create a central area off which all the rooms lead, giving the house a great flow.
- "My boys are definitely outdoor children, so our patio has to cater for all ages, sizes and shapes," says Anne. The blue theme follows through on the couches, which are slip-covered in Cabin Fever from Hertex Fabrics.
- Anne nestles amongst the cushions, in Indigo Blues from Mavromac, and takes some time out to enjoy the coolness of the patio she has created.

**THIS PAGE:**

The main bedroom opens onto its own generous bathroom and balcony. The ceiling trusses give the room a cool and airy feel.



**SOURCES**

- Barney's Paint Centre 011 671 0480 or [www.barneyspaint.com](http://www.barneyspaint.com)
- Belgotex Floorcoverings 033 897 7500
- Black Fabrics 011 262 3130
- Hartmann & Keppler 011 463 5005
- Hertex Fabrics 0860 437 839
- Mavromac 011 444 1584
- St Leger & Viney 011 444 6722
- The Plantation Shutter Company 011 708 7222





Athenian garden urn, R1 475, Hartmann & Keppler.



A free-standing cabinet from Country Living Interiors provides extra storage space in the Hartmann's kitchen.



Picasso jugs in various sizes, from R200 each, Mud Studio.

### Copy Anne Hartmann's classic style with our selection of fabrics and accessories

Scatter cushions, from R405 each, Hartmann & Keppler.

Basket and flowers, Hartmann & Keppler.



Blue and white fabrics from top to bottom: Mandalay, colour Cornflower, R314/m, Ikat, colour Ocean, R445/m, Avignon, colour Ocean, R535/m, Fordham, colour, Indigo, R483/m, all from the Indigo Blues range from Mavromac. GH



#### SOURCES

Country Living Interiors 011 706 2604

Hartmann & Keppler 011 463 5005

Mavromac 011 444 1584

Mud Studio 083 658 9714

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